

ARNG DIRECTORATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Subject: Fraudulent website for Hurricane Katrina relief

The Internet Crime Complaint Center has issued an alert regarding fraudulent website solicitations for Hurricane Katrina Relief. As of mid-day Thursday, there were over 2300 websites soliciting for donations for relief. The FBI is stating most of these are fraudulent and many are coming out of Europe. There are several dangers in responding to these sites. The first is identity theft, the second is your funds are not going where you intended, and last is the possibility of getting a computer virus.

The safest way to ensure you are not a target of a fraudulent website is to contact a recognized agency directly. The Red Cross (<http://www.RedCross.org>) is currently the biggest site that is being duplicated. Many people are getting unsolicited emails that appear legitimate, but when you click on the link in the email, you are actually re-directed to a website that is not associated to the Red Cross in any way. It is advisable not to follow any link sent to you in an unsolicited email.